

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The lightweight valve as claimed in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve cone support includes at least one supporting surface bearingly contacting an inner wall region of the valve cone.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The lightweight valve as claimed in claim 12 wherein a contour of the supporting surface complements the inner wall region.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The lightweight valve as claimed in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve cone-support is formed by a thickening on the stem connection element.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The lightweight valve as claimed in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve cone is of disk-spring-shaped design.

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): The lightweight valve as claimed in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve cone-support forms a centering or supporting seat for the valve cone.

Claim 18 (canceled):

Claim 19 (previously presented): The lightweight valve as claimed in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve is an internal combustion engine valve.

Claims 20 and 21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): The lightweight valve as claimed in claim 11 A lightweight valve comprising:

a valve stem;

a hollow valve cone with a hollow space having an end of greater diameter, the end having an inner circumference, an outer circumference and an end face between the inner circumference and the outer circumference; and

a valve disk closing the hollow space on one side and having a flat side facing the valve cone;

the valve stem being connected to a stem connection element formed on or fastened to the valve disk;

a valve cone support located at a distance from the valve disk and provided in the hollow space, the valve cone support being located on the stem connection element and projecting above the flat side; and

the valve disk having a longitudinal portion extending from the flat side of the valve disk, the flat side of the valve disk and the longitudinal portion defining a recess serving as a centering or supporting seat for receiving the end of greater diameter of the valve cone, the valve disk including a step extending upward from the flat side of the valve disk, the step including an angled surface that is angled with respect to the flat side of the valve disk, the angled surface supporting the inner circumference of the end of greater diameter of the valve cone, the longitudinal portion supporting the end face of the end of greater diameter of the valve cone, the longitudinal portion being frustoconical and having a cone angle that is the same as a cone angle of the valve cone at the end of greater diameter such that a continuous transition is brought about in a connection region between the longitudinal portion and the end of greater diameter of the valve cone;

wherein the valve cone includes an end of smaller diameter extending axially as a tubular projection to contact the stem connection element, the tubular projection having a reduced thickness in relation to a remainder of the cone so that the tubular projection nestles against the stem connection element.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The lightweight valve recited in claim 22 wherein the stem connection element includes a taper receiving the tubular projection such that a continuous transition is formed between the tubular projection and the stem connection element.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The lightweight valve recited in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve cone, the valve disk and the valve stem are shaped such that the valve cone is slidable over the valve stem so the end face of the end of greater diameter of the valve cone is brought into contact with the longitudinal portion of the valve disk after the valve disk is connected to the valve stem.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The lightweight valve recited in claim 24 wherein the longitudinal portion of the valve disk and the end face of the end of greater diameter of the valve cone are shaped to come into contact without forming a connection.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The lightweight valve recited in claim 24 wherein the stem connection element is arranged on the valve disk to fix a vertical position of the valve cone relative to the valve disk as the end face of the end of greater diameter of the valve cone is brought into contact with the longitudinal portion of the valve disk.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The lightweight valve recited in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve cone, the valve disk and the stem connection element are shaped such that the valve cone is slidable over the stem connection element so the end face of the end of greater diameter of the valve cone is brought into contact with the longitudinal portion of the valve disk after the valve disk is connected to the stem connection element.

Claim 28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (currently amended): The lightweight valve recited in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve disk and the stem connection element are made from intermetallic phase titanium aluminide or a titanium aluminide alloy.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The lightweight valve recited in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the outer circumference of the end of greater diameter of the valve cone does not contact the valve disk.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The lightweight valve recited in claim [[11]] 22 wherein the valve cone, the valve disk and the stem connection element are shaped such that the valve cone, the valve disk and the stem connection element are alignable with each other before the valve cone, the valve disk and the stem connection element are materially connected.